THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) India is procuring SU-30K/SU-30MK1 aircraft from Russia. Some aircraft have been received and the delivery of the rest would be phases.

Lack of Logistical support to troops in Indo-Pak border

4404. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that our troops on Indo-Pak border have been facing acute logistical shortage including water besides posing sanitation problem in Rajasthan where temperature had recently crossed 40 degree mark; and

(b) if so, whether Government had reviewed the state of mobilization of our troops on border and if so, with what result?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Every effort is being made to ensure that troops in Rajasthan do not face any hardship related to shortages of water and sanitation.

(b) There is no improvement in the cross-border terrorism abetted by Pakistan. Accordingly, the Government of India have decided that in order to meet any exigency, it would be in the interest of the nation to continue the deployment of troops, on the border.

Purchase of Thermal Imagers from a Black Listed Firm

4405. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a black listed firm has been given orders to the tune of 50 crore for purchase of Thermal Imagers for the Defence Department;

(b) if so, why such steps were taken knowing fully well the consequences of such deals; and

(c) how many such firms have been black listed and what steps are being taken to prevent such transactions in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Soldiers Killed in Operation Parakram

†4406. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: (a) whether it is a fact that 50 soldiers were killed by 15th March, 2002, during the 'Operation Parakaram';

(b) the number of military vehicles and assessories got damaged so far;

(c) the circumstances in which those soldiers were killed and equipments and vehicles damaged; and

(d) whether three Armed Forces are participating in this 'Operation Parakram'?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) 176 Army Personnel died during 'OP PRAKARAM' upto 15th March, 2002. Out of this 50 Army Personnel were killed due to vehicle accidents.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected.

(d) Yes Sir.

Diversion of funds for Jawans to a School

4407. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news captioned "5 Crore for Jawans goes to school for bigshots" published in the Indian Express dated 31st march, 2002;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been ordered in this regard; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.